



Volume 7 | Issue 2



February 6, 2015

Donate to Those Less Fortunate During Canned Food Month

It seems that as the memories of the holiday season fade away, so does our urgency to give. Many of us return to our daily routines, and we can forget that our neighbors continue to struggle to provide meals for their families. And although many continue to be in need after the holiday season, food donations drop and our food banks face shortages.

February is National Canned Food Month, and to help respond to those in need, my office will be working with local charities to help combat these shortages. Canned foods are popular in many households because of their ability to provide quick and convenient meals, and because they have a long shelf life, making them an even more important resource for food banks providing assistance throughout the year.

As you are browsing the overstocked shelves this weekend at your local grocery stores, please remember those less fortunate and consider giving to a community food bank. Throughout the month of February, please bring canned food items (along with other staples like oil, flour, sugar, and spaghetti sauce) to my office and we will distribute them to four fantastic charities right here in our community. Giving back to the community, and helping those in need, is a gift you can give regardless of the time of year.



Supervisor Cook has served on Fairfax County Board of Supervisors since 2009 and lives in Kings Park with his wife and children.

Stuff the Bus: Helping Fairfax Families

Until February 16, Fairfax County is promoting its annual "Stuff the Bus: Helping Fairfax Families" program. Each week a Fastran bus will park at a different location and collect food donations. Donation hours are from **9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** A list of donation can be found [here](#).



Supervisor Cook Now Chairman of VRE Operations Board

Supervisor Cook is honored to be able to serve as the 2015 Chairman of the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Operations Board. He assumed his responsibilities at the January 16th VRE Board meeting and is very excited about the opportunity. VRE is a tremendous asset to the region, providing the equivalent of 150 lane miles of highway during peak rush hour traffic. It is a critical component of Fairfax County's transportation infrastructure that provides real quality of life benefits to both riders and non-riders due to its traffic reduction capability. VRE is in a great position currently, but poised for even more, and Supervisor Cook is looking forward to helping it grow and improve during his tenure as Chairman.

Board Approves Supervisor Cook's Proposal to Establish a Policy for Electronic Data

At its January 13th meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved a board matter submitted by Supervisor Cook, jointly with Supervisors Hyland and Foust. The submission directs the County Executive to provide the Board, within ninety days, a recommended policy to govern the County's collection and retention of electronic data. This policy would govern the use of license plate readers and cell phone location technology, as well as the use, possession, and retention of collected data. Public input and Board discussions will follow once the County Executive submits his proposal.

Supervisor Cook believes government should act with great care when collecting and retaining data on the activities of private citizens. He looks forward to working on a policy that protects the civil liberties of residents while permitting government to perform its necessary functions.

Supervisor Cook Encourages Implementation of a Lifesaving Smart911-Style System

On January 27th, the Board of Supervisors approved a board matter submitted by Supervisor Cook that directs the topic of Smart911-style systems be referred to the Human Services Committee for further discussion. There are thousands of people with disabilities living in Fairfax County and they are left especially vulnerable in emergency situations. The implementation of a Smart911-style system in Fairfax County would allow safer emergency responses for both people with disabilities and law enforcement officers.

While some officers have received training on how to respond to individuals with autism, the training's usefulness is minimized if the officer is unaware that the individual even has a disability. With a system like Smart911, residents could create secure profiles at no cost containing photographs and critical health information, including how best to respond to that particular person, that could be seen by any 9-1-1 operator or first responder receiving a call. Having such personalized information on file to be used at such critical times like these could save lives, and could provide law enforcement with the tools they need to respond more safely and effectively.

Supervisor Cook in the Community

On **January 10th**, Supervisor Cook took part in a Read-a-Thon in honor of the 128th birthday of Aldo Leopold who is considered by many to be father of the United States' wilderness system. The event was held at the Ellen Coolidge Burke Library in Alexandria.

On **January 12th**, Supervisor Cook took part in the Braddock District Community Resilience Program Exercise hosted by Volunteer Fairfax, Faith Communities in Action, and Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management. The program is designed to assist HOA leaders in communicating with local non-profits in the case of unexpected emergencies

On **January 13th**, Supervisor Cook attended a reception in honor of Human Trafficking Awareness Month which was held at the Government Center. Later on, at the Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisor Cook was honored to read the proclamation recognizing the month long remembrance.

On **January 15th**, Supervisor Cook, in his role as chairman of the VRE, spoke before the Transportation Committee of the Virginia House of Delegates. Later that evening, he spoke to the members of the Stone Haven Civic Association meeting which was held at the Sprague Center in Annandale.

On **January 16th**, Supervisor Cook was officially sworn in as the 2015 Chairman of the VRE Operations Board. Later that evening, he

attended a Vietnamese American Celebration which took place at the Fortune House Restaurant in Falls Church.

On **January 22nd**, Supervisor Cook attended a farewell ceremony for Dr. Robert Templin who retired after serving as President of the Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus for 12 years. During his tenure, Dr. Templin and Supervisor Cook worked closely to ensure that the needs of the campus, as well as the neighboring citizens, were always addressed.

On **January 23rd**, Supervisor Cook took part in a roundtable discussion which was part of the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce Strategic Planning Program.

On **January 27th**, Supervisor Cook spoke to the members of the Woodlands Retirement Community. He

provided pertinent information and answered any questions that they had.

On **January 28th**, Supervisor Cook spoke before the Dunleigh HOA, which met at Braddock Hall. Meeting with local groups such as this is a priority for Supervisor Cook, so if your organization would like him to speak, please contact the office.

On **January 29th**, Supervisor Cook addressed Croftwood HOA, which held its annual meeting at Braddock Hall.

On **January 31st**, Supervisor Cook attended an Open House for the Fairfax Chapter of the NAACP. From there, he stopped by the



Cardinal Forest Giant where the Office of Public Private Partnerships was holding one of its annual Stuff the Bus events. This particular event was held to replenish the food banks of Ecumenical Community Helping Others (ECHO). To round out the evening, Supervisor

Cook attended the annual Presidents Ball which was held by the Northern Virginia Building Industry Association (NVBIA). The event took place at the Hilton McLean in Tysons Corner.

2015 Constituent Survey Results

Overall, the Constituent Survey released by Supervisor Cook received 744 responses. Below is a summary of the results. When looking at the responses, please keep in mind that not every person who completed the survey responded to every question. Thank you again for taking the time to complete the survey. Your feedback will be very helpful to Supervisor Cook in the coming months.

Question 1: 733 Responses Received

Tax revenue is projected to drop due to declining commercial assessments. If current tax rates are maintained, it is likely that residential real estate tax payments would increase by about three percent, while spending would keep up only with inflation, and not population growth. Given this likelihood, which statement most closely reflects your views on the upcoming budget:

Answer Choices	Responses
The Board should increase the tax rate in order to maintain current spending.	22.78% 167
The Board should hold the tax rate steady and implement spending reductions.	53.48% 392
The Board should increase taxes and spending.	11.60% 85
The Board should decrease taxes even if that requires large spending cuts.	12.14% 89
Total	733

Question 2: 731 Responses Received

Fairfax County Public Schools have asked for greater funding so that they can reduce class sizes and increase teacher pay. Which of the following statements most closely reflects your views on the Board's transfer to the school system:

Answer Choices	Responses
The Board should increase the transfer more than three percent.	31.19% 228
The Board should hold the transfer at the rate of inflation so tax rates can remain steady.	27.09% 198
The transfer should be reduced.	6.84% 50
The transfer should remain the same but spending priorities within the schools should change.	34.88% 255
Total	731

Question 3: 736 Responses Received

Supervisor pay can only be adjusted every four years and has not been increased in eight years. It has been proposed that Supervisor pay be raised from \$75,000 to \$95,000. This proposal increases pay by \$20,000. Which statement most closely resembles your views on the proposal?

Answer Choices	Responses	
The Board should approve the proposed raise.	17.66%	130
The Board should reject the proposed raise.	34.78%	256
The Board should raise pay, but by less than the proposal.	47.55%	350
Total		736

Question 4: 736 Responses Received

How much confidence do you have in the police officers in your community to not use excessive force on suspects?

Answer Choices	Responses	
a great deal	51.77%	381
a fair amount	31.66%	233
just some confidence	10.87%	80
very little confidence	5.71%	42
Total		736

Question 5: 733 Responses Received

How confident are you that the police in this county are held accountable for any misconduct?

Answer Choices	Responses	
very confident	35.74%	262
somewhat confident	39.84%	292
not so confident	15.01%	110
not confident at all	9.41%	69
Total		733

Braddock Neighborhood News: Veterans Treatment Docket

Supervisor Cook hosts a monthly television show, Braddock Neighborhood News, on Fairfax County Channel 16 which is available on most cable networks. Each month, Supervisor Cook invites topical guests to share pertinent news with the viewers.

This month, Supervisor Cook's show focuses on Virginia's first Veterans Treatment Docket. A large number of our service men and woman return from combat and have a difficult time adjusting to their normal life. Sometimes veterans land in the criminal justice system and what they really need is treatment and counsel. The Veterans Treatment Docket helps veterans who have found themselves in distress during this adjustment period by offering a programmatic alternative to incarceration. Joining Supervisor Cook are Robert Phillips, the Assistant Coordinator for the Veterans Treatment Docket, Don Northcutt, Veteran Mentor Coordinator, and Patty Haley, one of the Veteran Mentors.

The shows air throughout the month and can be seen Sundays at 5:00 p.m., Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. and Fridays at 5:00 p.m.

Take 12 Steps for Health

"Take 12 Steps for Health" is a health and wellness awareness program with the vision to help people make better decisions about their health one month at a time. The Take 12 Steps for Health 2015 calendar has monthly health tips, recipes and more. The 2015 program focuses on community health. A Healthy Strides Expo will be held on Friday, April 24, 2015, at South Run RECenter and a Healthy Strides 5k/10k run will be held on Saturday, April 25 at Burke Lake Park. Take 12 Steps for Health is a program of the Fairfax County Park Authority and supported by the Park Foundation. Calendars are available online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/take12/>.

Community Meeting on Silas Burke House Rezoning

Sunrise Development, Inc. is seeking County approval for a rezoning application to construct an assisted living facility at 9617 Burke Lake Road, the site on which the Silas Burke home is located. Their proposal includes retaining and preserving the existing historical home, its accessory structures, and the immediate setting around the home.

The Springfield District Supervisor and Planning Commissioner are hosting a community meeting to provide nearby residents with an opportunity to review and comment on these plans. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 24th at 7:30 p.m. at the West Springfield Government Center Community Room (6140 Rolling Road, Springfield, VA 22152).

Land Use Update

Christopher at Kenilworth (RZ/FDP 2014-BR-019). The applicant, Christopher Land, proposes to develop a 3.6 acre tract of land on Braddock Road immediately to the east of the State Police Headquarters at 9725 Braddock Road. The project proposes 9 single family homes at a density of 2.5 dwelling units per acre with approximately 40 percent of the property being held in open space. In January, this application received a positive recommendation from the Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee, pending its review of the staff report. A Staff Report, recommending approval, was published on January 29 and can be accessed at the following link: <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ldsdfw/4476412.PDF>. A public hearing before the Planning Commission is scheduled for February 11 at 8:15 p.m. To speak before the Commission, register at the following website: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning/speaker.htm> or call (703)324-2865 prior to 3:00 p.m. on the day of the public hearing to be placed on the pre-registered speaker's list.

Chick-fil-A in Burke Centre (PRC-C-546-03; DPA-C-546-24; PCA 83-S-029-02). The applicant hopes to have revised plans submitted to the county in early February but the case remains on indefinite hold.

McDonald's Corporation (PRC-A-787-03, concurrent with SEA 82-S-097-02). McDonald's has notified the county that it intends to indefinitely defer this case for expansion at its current location on Rolling Road in Cardinal Forest.

U-Haul It. This application, submitted by AREC 2018 (**RZ 2015-BR-001, and SE 2015-BR-001**) has now been accepted for review and comment. The property in question is approximately a five acre parcel located at 5271 and 5285 Port Royal Road on which a warehouse that was built in 1963 is located. The Property is currently zoned I-4. The Applicant seeks to rezone the property to I-5 to use the land as a U-Haul It facility for the rental of trucks of various sizes and to construct, within the warehouse building, a three-level self-storage component which would also be operated by U-Haul. Supervisor Cook will set a community information meeting in March.

Proposed Health Club in Burke Deferred.

WB Properties LLC (Olympus Gyms) submitted a Special Permit application (SPA 2014-BR-117) to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a 20,000 square foot structure at 10906 Clara Barton Drive. On January 28, the Board of Zoning Appeals accepted a request from the applicant for a deferral of this case until July 22, 2015. In the interim, in his deferral request, the applicant stated his intention "to be able to work with the community and the Braddock Board of Supervisors." Staff had recommended denial of this application and, in January, the immediately affected neighbors and the Burr Oak Cluster of the Burke Conservancy also sent a letter in opposition

<http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ldsdfw/4471580.PDF>.

The applicant wants to take some time to consider what use he will make of this property which is zoned for industrial use.

Human Services Corner

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program serves individuals or families with a 2014 income of \$52,000 or less. Last tax season, low-income families in this area saved over \$1.1 million in tax preparation fees by having their tax returns prepared for free by volunteers in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). These families received over \$8 million in refunds and credits. Clients bring their social security cards, W2s, and other documents to one of twenty locations in the area and are generally served on a first come, first-served basis. They are greeted by volunteers who help organize documents and then meet with a trained and tested volunteer who prepares their returns using professional software provided by the IRS. Translators and IT support volunteers also assist. If you are interested in volunteering, or if you know someone who is eligible for the program, go to www.nvacash.org, call James Do at 703-533-5471, or email james.do@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Volunteer to Assist Residents in Long-Term Care

The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is looking for people who are empathetic, diplomatic, assertive and skilled communicators to be Volunteer Ombudsmen. As an Ombudsman you will be assigned to visit a local nursing or assisted living facility, working to ensure that the residents' rights are being protected and helping residents with problems that they are unable to resolve alone.

Volunteer Ombudsmen dedicate four hours per week for one year. Visits must occur between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on weekdays. Ongoing support and training is provided.

The next 3-day training will be held on **March 9th, 11th and 18th**, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It is further suggested that **March 23, 2015** be reserved as a back-up date should there be any weather related cancelations. For more information, please call **(703) 324-5861** or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/LTCOmbudsman.

Community Events throughout February

3rd Annual From PossAbilities to Practical Applications Conference: Strengthening Education for Children with Disabilities, Feb. 7: Join over 250 educators, parents and professionals and discover how to better educate people with disabilities. The cost is \$40/per person and includes breakfast, lunch, handouts, and a tote bag. Register online at <http://www.dsagr.com/> by February 3rd.

Special Education & Your Child's Individualized Education Program,

Roundtable Discussion, Feb. 9: Become a more powerful advocate for your child! This event runs from 10:30 a.m. until noon and is a great opportunity to get answers to your questions surrounding your child's education and IEP. The roundtable discussion will also provide the opportunity to meet others in similar situations. It is free and open to the public and will be held at the Offices of Alexandria PIE, 4480 King Street, Fifth Floor in Alexandria, VA. RSVP to Heather Trammell at (703) 621-7129 or heathert@dsanv.org

Stream Monitoring Workshop, Feb. 8: Help monitor the health of Accotink Creek as it flows peacefully through the woods alongside the popular Cross County Hike and Bike Trail. The workshop will take place from 1:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. For directions and to RSVP, please contact [Dan Schwartz](#).

Fairfax County Public Schools Workshop: Introduction to Special Education, Feb. 11:

This orientation is for parents NEW to Special Education to learn about the process and the resources available. This orientation is most appropriate for parents with children in the referral or eligibility phase of the Special Education process, or for those who want to know more about how the Special Education process works. The event will take place at the Fairfax County Public School Parent Resource Center at 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1, Room 105. To register online click [here](#).



Braddock District Aging in Place, Feb. 18:

The meeting will consist of a review and update of the 50+ Plan and will be held in the small conference room at the King's Park Library from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m.

Riverbend Park Winter Astronomy Festival, Feb. 21: Come out to beautiful Riverbend Park

on the shores of the Potomac and enjoy activities including guided star gazing, looking through a telescope, and listening to ancient stories about the constellations around the campfire. Other activities and games will be going on throughout the evening as well. Hot chocolate and snacks will be available for purchase. Event will be cancelled if raining or snowing. [Online registration](#) is \$6 for county residents (\$7 at the door) and \$8 for all others.

Tax Relief Workshops, Begin Feb. 28: The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is hosting

a series of free tax relief workshops beginning February 28 and running through March at several locations throughout the county. Real estate tax relief is available for older adults and people with disabilities who meet certain qualifications. You also may be eligible for car tax relief and tax relief for renters.

Tax Relief workshops will be held at the Kings Park Library on **Friday, March 6th** and **Tuesday, March 17th**. Both workshops start at 10:00 a.m. If you would like, call 703-425-9300 to schedule an appointment. You can also visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dta/> or call 703-222-8234, TTY 703-222-7594, for more information about tax relief.

Apply Now to Youth Conservation Camp

The Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts sponsors a week long summer conservation camp in July for Virginia high school students on the campus of Virginia Tech. The program brings together about seventy students for a week of hands-on, outdoor learning about Virginia's natural resources from conservation professionals and Virginia Tech faculty. The Camp is a selective program and Fairfax County students must send their applications to the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District. Winning applicants will receive a scholarship to partially offset the cost of the camp, which is around \$550. Applications are available on [NVSWCD's website](#).

Replacement of Outdoor Fitness Stations at Royal Lake Park

Progress continues toward identifying new exercise equipment options, locations, funding, scheduling, and more to replace the old outdoor fitness equipment at Royal Lake. On January 6th members of the Friends of Royal Lake met with Fairfax County Park Authority staff to discuss two important planning guidelines -- the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act -- both of which have compliance requirements. Discussions revealed that most of the existing exercise equipment should be removed either because of its material condition or its location in a flood prone area. Further, it was decided that some of the removed items can and will be replaced with similar items, and the new equipment will be located near the tennis and basketball courts at Royal Lake Park.

The Friends group has already identified a 16 piece equipment layout costing about \$18,500.00. Since the Park Authority does not have funds to cover the equipment cost, voluntary contributions will be needed. The Park Authority's Mastenbrook grant program provides matching grant funds up to \$20,000 per qualified project. This project qualifies for matching funds and the Friends group has identified a \$10,000.00 contribution milestone.

Friends of Royal Lake needs several volunteers to help make this project happen on time! To get involved email lakeroyalfriends@gmail.com. A critical planning milestone will take place on Tuesday, February 24 at 7:00 p.m. at Braddock Hall in the Kings Park Library Building. FCPA representatives will be on hand to answer any questions.

Scholarship Opportunities for Students Interested in the Environment

The Educational Foundation of the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts annually offers several \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors or currently enrolled college freshmen. The scholarships support college studies related to natural resource conservation. Applications for Fairfax County students must be submitted by March 16th to the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District. Application forms are available to [download](#).

The Izaak Walton League offers two \$2,500 scholarships for qualified college juniors or seniors. These scholarships help educate tomorrow's conservation leaders by supporting college students pursuing degrees in natural resources and related subjects. The application and specific requirements are available [here](#).

Funding Assistance for Conservation Work on Homeowner and Community Association Property

Have you ever thought about improving your community's common lands by installing a rain garden to capture runoff, incorporating native meadow or tree and shrub species into your landscaping, or even installing porous pavers on a portion of your parking lot? Do you want to improve the energy efficiency of your community's club house or other shared building? These practices and more are now eligible for cost-share funding through the newly-launched Conservation Assistance Program (CAP). Visit the [CAP webpage](#) on the Conservation District's website to learn more about eligible practices, funding levels, and who can apply. Applications will be available for download soon - please check the webpage frequently!